

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington 25, D. C.C O P Y

August 11, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: U. S. Policy on Outer Space (NSC 5814) (C).

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed the subject draft revision of NSC 5814 prepared by the NSC Planning Board in accordance with NSC Action 1940-c for consideration by the National Security Council at its meeting on 14 August 1958. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that while the draft revision is in literal consonance with NSC Action 1940-c, it does not wholly reflect the substance of the recommendation made to the National Security Council by the Deputy Secretary of Defense. As a result, the draft statement of policy does not reflect a proper balance between military and non-military interests in outer space. Paragraph 43 of the draft revision states the following as a U. S. objective: "Development and exploitation of U. S. outer space capabilities as needed to achieve U. S. scientific, military, and political purposes, and to establish the United States as a recognized leader in this field." The primary product of leadership in the non-military aspect of outer space is world-wide prestige, whereas that of the military aspect is a factor in the survival of the United States. Since U. S. resources that can be devoted to outer space activities over-all are limited, it is appropriate to indicate the relative priority between military and non-military activities.

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff wish to emphasize the "preliminary" nature of the draft statement of policy and the need for flexibility in the execution of its provisions.

3. Specific comments on the diverse views contained in the draft revisions follow:

a. Paragraph 50, page 12. (Changes to read as follows, indicated in the usual manner):

50. In the absence of a safeguarded international agreement for the control of armaments and armed forces, place primary emphasis on activities related to outer space necessary to maintain the over-all deterrent capability of the United States and the Free World.

[REDACTED]

REASON: In the absence of a safeguarded international agreement for the control of armaments and armed forces, policy guidance, particularly as it affects future military research and development programs is needed. Such guidance does not appear elsewhere in this paper nor in other U. S. policy papers.

4. Subject to the foregoing,

a. The majority view of the draft revision of policy is acceptable from a military point of view, and

b. The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that you concur in the adoption of the draft revision of NSC 5814, "U. S. Policy on Outer Space."

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

N. F. TWINING,
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff.